TEMPORARY EXHIBITION

LOS MULTINATURALISTAS

Pierre Huyghe, *Untitled (Human Mask)*, 2014. Courtesy of the artist; Marian Goodman Gallery; Hauser & Wirth; Esther Schipper; & Anna Lena Films

LOS MULTINATURALISTAS

April - July 2017

Gallery B

Artists:
Milena Bonilla & Luisa Ungar, François Bucher, Lucien Castaing-Taylor and Véréna Paravel, Council (Francesca Bertolotti-Bailey, Grégory Castéra and Sandra Terdjman), Etienne Chambaud, Colectivo 4 Direcciones (Diana Rico, Richard Decaillet and Miguel Navas), Pedro Gómez-Egaña, Pierre Huyghe, Mathieu Kleyebe Abonnenc, Rometti Costales (Julia Rometti and Victor Costales)

The title of the exhibition alludes to the concept of *multinaturalism* proposed by Brazilian anthropologist Eduardo Viveiros de Castro to define South American Amerindian thinking, in which a variety of possible natures, but a sole spiritual unity acts as an alternative to the Western concept of multiculturalism–which grants a sole nature, but a multiplicity of cultures. Thus, in the multinatural world, objects, weather, the dead, animals, and natural elements have a spirit and consequently, consumption relations are ruled by *cosmopolitical* accords.

Framed in the collaborative cultural effort of the 2017 France-Colombia year, *Los multinaturalistas* offers a dialogue between artworks by both Colombian and French artists regarding the nature-culture division. This classification has been the subject of recent debates in Western academia and art discourse, whose inquiry includes the term *Anthropocene* –the current geological era in which the human impact in our planet has become irreversible due to the industrial capitalist model of exploiting nature-. Climate change is deemed capitalism's biggest and most urgent consequence.

Linking artistic perspectives that have distant references, the exhibition nonetheless reflects on common contemporary concerns regarding sensible experiences in facing a world submerged in ecological crisis. It considers how the natural and non-human universes must be understood as more than a finite stack of resources. Here the division between alive and inert is culturally interpreted in diverse ways. The curatorship emphasizes our affective relationship with the non-human universe pointing out the crucial importance of plural forms of knowledge rendering the concept of nature, that cohabitate on the planet and specifically in Colombia.

The political transformation taking place now in Colombia is implemented in multiple and contradictory ways regarding the territory. On the one hand, an extractivist neoliberal agenda is promoted internationally, using the new "safety" of the country as an invitation to the exploitation of natural resources. On the other, governmental initiatives are undertaken to guarantee the protection of autonomy over territory management by native cultures, which comprise a substantial part of the country and are the safe keepers of ancestral knowledge.

The exhibition is articulated in the space thanks to design of artist Felipe Arturo, who built polygonal shapes that respond to a rational and interpretative order of nature, alluding to spaces and structures of the Enlightenment and also to the geometry of minerals and crystals that are transformed by culture.

Inspired by Portuguese sociologist Boaventura de Sousa Santos' idea of an 'ecology of knowledges'[1] , the exhibition attempts to imagine the cultural negotiation necessary for a peaceful cohabitation and usage of natural resources. It's a dialogue in which each form of knowledge has to be considered incomplete –both modern Western scientific knowledge and indigenous cosmogonies-. *Los multinaturalistas* attempts to evoke aesthetic forms of exchange to negotiate a sustainable future by enacting a foundation in recognizing the *epistemological pluralism* that cohabitates our cultural terrain.

Natalia Valencia Arango / Curator

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[1] De Sousa Santos, Boaventura. *Beyond Abyssal Thinking: From Global Lines to Ecologies of Knowledges.* CIDES-UMSA. Buenos Aires, 2009.

Council, Joscelyn Gardner, *Hibiscus esculentus* (Sibyl), 2009

AS PART OF THE EXHIBITION

The films *INCOMPLT* (2016) by Etienne Chambaud and *Secteur IX B* (2015) by Mathieu Kleyebe Abonnenc are screened in the MAMM Theater on Thursdays, Fridays and Sundays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

AÑO DE LA COLOMBIA EN FRANCIA 2017

EVENT ORGANIZED WITHIN THE FRAME OF THE 2017 FRANCIA - COLOMBIA YEAR

GOBIERNO DE COLOMBIA

TODOS POR UN NUEVO PAÍS

INSTITUT FRANÇAIS

MUSEO DE ARTE MODERNO MEDELLÍN - COLOMBIA

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